GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:950
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
INDIAN ASSISTANCE FOR FIGHTING MAOISTS MENACE
ANANDRAO ADSUL;SHANKERSINH VAGHELA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal had sought the Indian military help to curb Maoists terrorists;

(b) if so, whether India has agreed to extend the help; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a), (b) & (c) Consequent to the unilateral withdrawal from the dialogue process by the Maoists and subsequent widespread violence resorted to by them in Nepal since November 23, 2001, Government of Nepal initiated a number of steps including the declaration of a nationwide state of emergency on November 26, 2001, and issuance of the Terrorism and Disruptive Activities (Prevention and Control) Ordinance 2001 under which Maoists have been declared `terrorists`. The Imposition of Emergency was ratified by the Nepalese House of Representatives on February 21, 2002, extending the Emergency for another three months. The Royal Nepalese Army and the Special Armed Police Force have been seeking out the Maoists, who have, in turn, carried out some major attacks, including on February 17, 2002, in Achham, which resulted in the regrettable loss of over a hundred lives of soldiers, security men and civilians.

Government of India is firmly opposed to the recourse to violence and extremism in the pursuit of political objectives. India has strongly condemned the Maoist violence and extended support to the steps taken by Government of Nepal to restore normalcy and order in the country. India has also offered such assistance as is desired by Nepal in addressing the situation. Our border security has been strengthened and the Indian States bordering Nepal have been alerted to keep a close vigil along the border.